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REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 10, 2007. Claims 1-18 were pending. By this Amendment, claims 1-18 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, and new claims 19-28 have been added. Accordingly, claims 19-28 are now pending, with claims 19 and 24 being in independent form.

The title was objected to as purportedly not sufficiently descriptive.

The title has been reviewed and amended to be more descriptive of the subject matter of the new claims.

Withdrawal of the objection to the title is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 2, 4, 14 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite.

By this Amendment, claims 1-18 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, and have been replaced by new claims 19-28. Therefore, the rejections are moot with respect to now-canceled claims 1-18.

New claims 19-28 clearly recite subject matter with the statutorily required definiteness and utility. For example, the subject matter of new claims 19-28 enables consistent printer configuration data to be maintained in a system in which a printer, a client apparatus and a server apparatus are connected via a network. Such features allow the user to properly perform option setting when submitting a print job.

Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101 and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 is respectfully requested.

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Claims 1-18 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as purportedly unpatentable over claims 1-43 of Nuggehalli U.S. Patent No. 7,143,150.

By this Amendment, claims 1-18 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, and have been replaced by new claims 19-28. Therefore, the rejection is moot with respect to now-canceled claims 1-18.

Claims 1-43 of Nuggehalli neither teach nor suggest (a) obtaining, by a client apparatus in a system in which a printer, the client apparatus and a server apparatus are connected via a network, configuration data of the printer from the printer, (b) automatically transferring the configuration data of the printer from the client apparatus to the server apparatus, upon receiving the configuration data in (a), and (c) causing a printer driver for the printer on the server apparatus to reflect the configuration data, as provided by the subject matter of new claims 19-28 of the present application.

Withdrawal of the double patenting rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as purportedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,143,150 to Nuggehalli. Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as purportedly unpatentable over Perkins et al. (US 2003/0184782 A1).

By this Amendment, claims 1-18 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, and have been replaced by new claims 19-28. Therefore, the rejections are moot with respect to now-canceled claims 1-18.

Applicant respectfully submits that new claims 19-28 are patentable over the cited art, for at least the following reasons.

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Nuggehalli, as understood by Applicant, proposes an approach for configuring a computer to include settings for the available options of a printer connected to the computer via a network. SNMP commands are transmitted to the printer in order to obtain information regarding the available options of the printer. In response to the transmitted commands, the printer transmits the information regarding its available options to the computer, and the printer driver resident on the computer is then updated without manually selecting individual printer options to include the retrieved options.

Applicant does not find teaching or suggestion in Nuggehalli, however, of (a) obtaining, by a client apparatus in a system in which a printer, the client apparatus and a server apparatus are connected via a network, configuration data of the printer from the printer, (b) automatically transferring the configuration data of the printer from the client apparatus to the server apparatus, upon receiving the configuration data in (a), and (c) causing a printer driver for the printer on the server apparatus to reflect the configuration data, as provided by the subject matter of new claims 19-28 of the present application.

In addition, this application and the invention claimed in this application are assigned to Ricoh Company, Ltd, Tokyo, Japan. The assignment of this application to Ricoh Company, Ltd, Tokyo, Japan has been recorded by the USPTO at Reel 14862, Frame 0338.

Nuggehalli is a patent issued from U.S. application Serial No. 09/457,397 filed December 9, 1999, and, like this application, is assigned to Ricoh Company, Ltd, Tokyo, Japan. The assignment of U.S. application Serial No. 09/457,397 to Ricoh Company, Ltd, Tokyo, Japan has been recorded by the USPTO at Reel 10447, Frame 0885. Therefore, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c), Ichikawa does not preclude patentability of the invention claimed in this application.

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Perkins, as understood by Applicant, proposes a generic printer driver that is configured to receive a printer description upon selection of a printer. In the system proposed by Perkins the printer description is incorporated into the generic printer driver, thereby creating a specialized printer driver which presents printer-specific printing options to the user and formats a print job using low-level printer-specific commands and information.

Applicant does not find teaching or suggestion in Perkins, however, of (a) obtaining, by a client apparatus in a system in which a printer, the client apparatus and a server apparatus are connected via a network, configuration data of the printer from the printer, (b) automatically transferring the configuration data of the printer from the client apparatus to the server apparatus, upon receiving the configuration data in (a), and (c) causing a printer driver for the printer on the server apparatus to reflect the configuration data, as provided by the subject matter of new claims 19-28 of the present application.

Accordingly, for at least the above-stated reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that new claims 19-28 of the present application are patentable over the cited art.

In view of the remarks hereinabove, Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees that are required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner

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is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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